

CLAIMS:

1. An air-bag unit adapted to be positioned on the floor pan of a motor vehicle in the foot-well to be located beneath the feet of an occupant of the vehicle, the air-bag unit having a substantially sealed damp-proof housing containing an air-bag, the housing having a substantially rigid upper cover, the unit being such that on inflation of the air-bag the cover of the housing is lifted, from its initial position to an elevated position.
2. A unit according to Claim 1 wherein the housing is provided with mounting means to mount the unit in position.
3. A unit according to Claim 1 or 2 wherein the air-bag comprises two super-imposed layers of fabric, the layers being secured together to define a plurality of discrete cells.
4. A unit according to Claim 3 wherein the cells comprise a plurality of substantially parallel cells which are substantially cylindrical when inflated.
5. A unit according to Claim 3 wherein the cells comprise a plurality of cells configured so that on inflation of the cells one end of each cell has a greater diameter than the other end of the cell.
6. A unit according to Claim 5 wherein the cells are substantially triangular.

7. A unit according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the air-bag is provided with a gas supply tube adapted to be connected to a gas generator.
8. A unit according to Claim 1 in combination with a gas generator connected to the gas supply tube, the gas generator being associated with a sensor adapted to respond to an impact.
9. A unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 wherein a gas generator is provided within the housing to provide gas to inflate the air-bag.
10. A unit according to Claim 9 wherein electrical connection means are provided to enable means supplying a signal adapted to initiate inflation of the air-bag to be connected to the gas generator.
11. A unit according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the cover of the housing is secured to the base of the housing, the cover being adapted to be separated from the base of the housing on inflation of the air-bag.
12. A unit according to Claim 11 wherein the cover is sonic-welded to the base of the housing.
13. A unit according to any one of Claims 1 to 10 wherein the cover is secured to a base part of the housing by means of a deformable side wall.
14. A unit according to Claim 13 wherein the side wall is a concertina-style side wall.
15. A unit according to any one of the preceding Claims wherein the unit has a substantially rigid base.

16. A unit according to Claim 15 wherein the bas has a deformable peripheral region, a terminal lip of the peripheral region being secured to the cover.